

Message Text

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FOR SECRETARY, SISCO, ATHERTON FROM SAUNDERS

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SUBJ: GENEVA MILITARY WORKING GROUP -- SESSIONS 3 - 6

1. SUMMARY: MILITARY WORKING GROUP IN SESSIONS 3-6 (SEPT 10-11) HAS GRADUALLY SETTLED DOWN FROM ROCKY START IN FIRST SUBSTANTIVE SESSION. AS TALK TURNED TO PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AREA, THERE HAVE BEEN DISAGREEMENTS AND LENGTHY INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSIONS ON MAJOR ISSUES, BUT AREAS OF AGREEMENT HAVE BEGUN TO CRYSTALLIZE AND SLOWLY TO ACCUMULATE. TONE HAS IMPROVED, THOUGH EACH SIDE SEES CONTINUED REASON FOR DISSATISFACTION WITH OTHER'S POSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING INITIAL SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF MILITARY WORKING GROUP, DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN MARKED BY MORE ACCOMMODATING TONE ON ISRAELI SIDE WITH SHAFIR FOR MOST PART MODULATING HIS SABRA INTONATIONS. EGYPTIANS REMAIN FRUSTRATED BY ISRAELI INSISTENCE ON TIGHT CONTROLS IN SOUTHERN AREA. BUT ATMOSPHERE IN MEETINGS HAS IMPROVD, AND THERE ARE NOW FREQUENT OCCASIONS WHEN MEMBERS OF EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI DELEGATIONS WILL GO OFF IN A CORNER TOGETHER TO WORK OUT A PROBLEM OR WILL TALK TOGETHER DURING COFFEE BREAK. THOUGH GENERALLY RELAXED AND ENJOYING THIS FIRST EXPERIENCE OF CONTACT WITH ARABS, BAZIT IS MILDLY IMPATIENT AT PACE OF TALKS SINCE POINTS OF AGREEMENT ARE NOT BEING CLICKED OFF AS CRISPLY AS HE WOULD LIKE, AND HE IS HOVERING ON BRINK OF ASKING FOR WASHINGTON INTRVENTION. ISRAELIS HAVE ALSO PRESSED FOR ES-

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TABLISHMENT OF DRAFTING GROUP. EGYPTIANS REGARD DRAFTING GROUP

AS PREMATURE UNTIL AGREEMENT REACHED ON SUBSTANCE, AND ARE STILL RESISTING ON CERTAIN POINTS. GAZIT HAS AGREED TO SEE HOW THINGS GO FOR ANOTHER DAY OR TWO.

3. SESSIONS 3-6 HAVE CONCENTRATED ON SOUTHERN AREA. FOLLOWING ISSUES HAVE OCCUPIED MOST TIME:

- A. LOCATION AND NUMBER (24) OF UNEF CHECK POINTS IS AGREED.
- B. NUMBER OF CIVILIAN POLICE BEING DEBATED. EGYPT STARTED WITH 3000; ISRAEL WITH 120; GAP NARROWED TO 1500 AND 350. GAMASY HAS APPARENTLY TOLD MAGHDOUB TO STICK TO HIS GUNS ON THIS, SO IT REMAINS AT IMPASSE.
- C. ISRAEL IS INSISTING THAT NUMBER OF HELICOPTERS AND TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT EGYPT INTENDS TO MAINTAIN WITHIN SOUTHERN AREA BE STATED. MAGHDOUB HAS COME AROUND TO SAYING IT WILL 5-6 BUT INSISTING THAT NO NUMBER APPEAR IN PROTOCOL.
- D. AGREEMENT JUST ABOUT REACHED ON TIMETABLE FOR COMMON USE OF ROAD DEVELOPED AROUND USE IN ALTERNATING THREE-HOUR PERIODS WITH LONGER ISRAELI PERIOD AT NIGHT. EGYPTIANS NOW ACCEPT THAT ISRAEL'S USE DURING ITS HOURS IS UNRESTRICTED.
- E. MODALITIES OF UNEF INSPECTION DEBATED AT LENGTH. EGYPTIAN FORMULA OF EGYPTIAN SEARCH UNDER UNEF SUPERVISION AT CHECK POINTS ACCEPTED. BUT ISRAELIS INSISTING UNEF HAVE RIGHT TO SEARCH HOUSES AND OTHER BUILDINGS. EGYPTIANS HAVE PROPOSED FORMULA OF UNEF WORKING THROUGH CIVIL POLICE, AND GAP SEEMS TO BE CLOSING.
- F. ISRAELIS HAVE ACCEPTED THAT THERE ARE NO SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS IN HAMAM FARAUN AREA EXCEPT FOR AREAS OF UN POSTS.
- G. DISCUSSION OF TRANSFER OF OIL FIELDS DEFERRED A COUPLE OF DAYS SO EACH SIDE CAN BRING EXPERT TO GENEVA.
- H. UN HAS HAD TO SORT OUT QUESTION: "WHEN IS A BUFFER NOT A BUFFER?" BUFFER ZONES 2-A AND 2-B ARE REALLY MISNAMED SINCE MILITARY TRAFFIC IS ALLOWED THROUGH THEM. BUT THIS WILL BE RESOLVED.
- I. UN BROACHED AND ISRAELIS PICKED UP IDEA OF UNEF COASTAL PATROLS. THIS IS AGREED.

4. PERIODICALLY THROUGH THESE SESSIONS DISCUSSION HAS RETURNED TO OVERALL TIMETABLE OF REDEPLOYMENT, WHICH PRODUCED UNPLEASANTNESS OF FIRST SUBSTANTIVE SESSION.

- A. ISRAELIS HAVE IN SECOND ROUND PRODUCED SCHEDULE WHICH WOULD ALLOW EGYPTIANS TO MOVE FORWARD BEGINNING ABOUT FEBRUARY 14 IN-SECRET

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STEAD OF 22 IN NORTHERN SECTOR. IN THE SOUTHERN SECTOR, WHILE OIL AREAS WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO TECHNICIANS BEFORE DECEMBER 1, FORMAL TRANSFER TO EGYPT AND FINAL ISRAELI DEPARTURE WOULD TAKE PLACE ONLY THEN. SHAFIR IN THE WORKING GROUP KEEPS SAYING IT IS "IMPOSSIBLE" TO MOVE OUT IN A SHORTER TIME SINCE HE HAS ALREADY BEEN CUT FROM 9 MONTHS TO 5 FOR IMPLEMENTATION. HE ALSO SAYS REPEATEDLY AND EMPHATICALLY THAT IT WAS AGREED DURING SHUTTLE THAT ISRAEL WOULD MOVE OUT OF EACH AREA ONLY IN ONE-MOVE, NOT IN PHASES

AS IN FIRST DISENGAGEMENT. GAZIT PRIVATELY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT ISRAEL WANTS TO STAY FULL TIME IN EACH CASE TO PROVIDE TIME OF "POLITICAL TESTING," AND THIS IS PROBABLY REAL REASON BECAUSE ISRAEL HAS ALMOST NOTHING FOR SEVERAL KILOMETERS EAST OF PRESENT LINE B AND COULD LET UNEF BEGIN TO MOVE ACROSS INTO NEW BUFFER EARLY.

B. IS IS EQUALLY POLITICAL PRESSURE THAT LEADS EGYPTIANS TO PRESS INSISTENTLY FOR STEADY, PHASED MOVEMENT FORWARD. IN SOUTHERN SECTOR, FOR INSTANCE, THEY WOULD LIKE RAS SUDAR AREA TO BE TURNED OVER TO EGYPTIAN CIVIL AUTHORITIES SHORTLY AFTER TECHNICIANS TAKE OVER OIL FIELDS INSTEAD OF WAITING UNTIL DECEMBER 1. IN THE NORTHERN SECTOR, EGYPTIANS HAVE ASKED ISRAELIS TO CONSIDER AN APPROACH THAT WOULD ALLOW EGYPT TO MOVE INTO PRESENT BUFFER ZONE IN STAGES.

C. THIS CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TWO APPROACHES -- ONE MOVE VERSUS PHASED MOVES -- REMAINS UNRESOLVED, BUT IT IS NOW BEING DISCUSSED RATHER THAN BEING PRESENTED ON TAKE-IT-OR-LEAVE-IT BASIS AS WAS CASE TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

5. SIILASVUO SEEMS SATISFIED WITH PACE OF TALKS. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT HE WILL LET ME KNOW IF HE SEES PENDING NEED FOR US INTERVENTION BUT, IN HIS VIEW, THAT TIME IS BY NO MEANS HERE YET. HE IS LOW-KEY CHAIRMAN WHO OPERATES ON PRINCIPLE OF GIVING TWO SIDES MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY TO WORK THINGS OUT TOGETHER. HE ALSO RECOGNIZES THEIR TENDENCY TO MAGNIFY GAPS.

6. I THINK OUR DEGREE OF INVOLVEMENT HAS WORKED OUT RIGHT. IF US WERE IN MEETING ROOM, TWO SIDES WOULD CONSTANTLY TRY TO INVOLVE US AT LEAST INFORMALLY DURING BREAKS, AND SIILASVUO HAS COMMENTED THAT DISCUSSION WOULD NOT BE NEARLY SO FRANK IF USSR WERE PRESENT. SINCE WE HAVE MEANS OF FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS IN DETAIL, WE HAVE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS. THERE IS LESSON HERE WORTH PONDERING FOR FUTURE IF AND WHEN FULL CONFERENCE MEETS ON BROADER ISSUES.

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7. MEETINGS SATURDAY THROUGH MONDAY WILL BE REDUCED FROM NORMAL PACE OF TWO SESSIONS PER DAY BECAUSE OF SABBATH AND YOM KIPPUR. NORMAL MEETING TIMES ARE 0930-1230 AND 1300-1900.

8. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT PROMPTLY TO CAIRO AND TEL AVIV.DALE

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